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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 15 APRIL 16, 2007

INSIDE

How Washington framed Cuban 5

The case for fighting to win freedom for five revolutionaries

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Senate: $98 billion for Iraq, Afghanistan wars

$5 billion more than Bush requested; Democrats try to salvage 'antiwar' posture



AP/Sgt. Armando Monroig, US Army

U.S. soldiers of 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, in Baqouba, Iraq, some 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, on March 15.

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, April 3—The U.S. Senate approved an emergency funding bill providing $98 billion for the imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan March 29. This is about $5 billion more than the White House had requested.

The House of Representatives had passed a similar bill six days earlier.

As in the House vote, the leadership of the Democratic majority in the Senate tried to give an "antiwar" gloss to the measure, because the bill contains a nonbinding proposal that U.S. troops begin withdrawal from their combat role in Iraq by March 31, 2008.

In a March 28 speech to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, U.S. president George Bush said he would veto any bill that includes a time line for pulling U.S. troops from Iraq.

Five days after leading passage of the war spending measure, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, in a move aimed at salvaging the Democrats' "antiwar" posture, said that he would push to cut funds for the war if Bush carries out his veto threat.

However, Sen. Barack Obama, a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in the 2008 elections, said that if Bush vetoes the emergency spending bill in its current form, Congress would quickly approve funding for the war. "I don't think that we will see a majority of the Senate vote to cut off funding at this stage," Obama

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Under pressure by imperialists, Tehran frees 15 captured British troops

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON, April 4—Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced today that his government would release 15 British sailors and marines captured by the Iranian Navy in the Shatt al-Arab waterway March 23. The announcement came six days after British prime minister Anthony Blair said his government would "ratchet up the diplomatic and international pressure" on Iran to gain the release of 15.

Tehran said it captured the British military personnel in Iranian waters, while London insists they were in Iraqi territory.

The standoff over the detainees was intertwined with the imperialist campaign against Iran, led by Washington, London, and their allies, over Tehran's aspirations to develop its own nuclear energy industry and Iranian influence in Iraq. This has included two rounds of sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council, the assassination of a key Iranian nuclear scientist by the Israeli secret police Mossad, and the arrest by U.S. forces in Iraq of five Iranian citizens. Blair and U.S. president George Bush had publicly ruled out an exchange of the five Iranians for the 15 British troops.

A March 30 meeting of European Union foreign ministers in Bremen, Germany, warned of "appropriate measures"

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1,200 coal miners strike in Illinois, Pennsylvania

BY RYAN SCOTT

WAYNESBURG, Pennsylvania, April 4—Nearly 1,200 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) struck three underground coal mines

AS WE GO TO PRESS

at 12:01 a.m. today in Pennsylvania and Illinois. At issue is the effort by Foundation Coal Holdings, the mines' owner, to negotiate a side agreement including

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'La migra' raids nine Baltimore worksites; 69 workers arrested

BY SAM MANUEL

BALTIMORE, April 2—Federal immigration cops arrested 69 workers from Latin America and Africa March 29 in raids at nine workplaces here and the surrounding area. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents also seized $600,000 from the bank account of Jones Industrial Network, a temporary employment agency that sends workers to the nine companies.

"There was no one to pick up my little brother at school today," said Daysy Lopez, as relatives of the detained workers gathered outside the employment agency today. Lopez's mother was among those arrested.

"They chase us like animals and say

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New readers join campaign to sell 2,400 'Militant' subscriptions

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK, April 4—The campaign to win 2,400 new *Militant* readers got off to a good start, with 144 people subscribing the first weekend.

A central goal of the eight-week campaign, which started March 31 and ends May 27, is not only to increase the paper's readership in the working class but to convince more workers and youth to become active promoters of the paper.

Several readers sent notes describing progress on this score.

"The first day of the drive we met a subscriber, who recently renewed, to discuss politics and how he could get involved," said Dan Fein, a garment worker in New York. "He is a hotel worker and member of the UNITE HERE union, who is now

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'Militant' supporters launch fund drive to raise $100,000

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

April 4—An eight-week campaign to raise $100,000 for the *Militant* kicked off March 31. Supporters of the paper around the world have pledged $92,000 toward the fund so far.

The money is needed to cover the paper's operating costs—like printing, shipping, rent, and utilities—and expenses for fielding reporting teams around the world.

The *Militant*'s subscription drive, concurrent with the fund appeal, provides greater opportunities to raise money. As initial efforts in the sub drive show, many workers and youth are eager to help circulate the paper more broadly. They can also be enlisted to contribute themselves and solicit donations from coworkers and friends for the fund appeal.

Militant supporters in a few areas have taken initiatives to get an early start. At

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Illinois 'driver certificate' would finger undocumented

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

CHICAGO, March 31—The Illinois House of Representatives voted March 28 to approve a bill that gives undocumented immigrants the possibility of applying for driving "certificates," which would allow them to drive legally and buy auto insurance. It would be a different color and design than the Illinois driver's license and could not be used as legal ID. State Representative Edward Acevedo, who sponsored the measure, titled the Roadway Safety and Mandatory Insurance Coverage Act, said, "This bill will benefit all people in Illinois, making safer roads all across the state."

The bill is now going to the State Senate and, if adopted, will go to Illinois governor Rodney Blagojevich, who has said he would sign it into law.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights organized a rally of 2,000 on March 22 in Springfield, the state capital, to lobby for the bill's passage. In its press release the group said an estimated 250,000 people in Illinois drive without a license. They are uninsured and "involved in an estimated 76,000 accidents each year, causing $630 million in damage claims."

Besides passing a written and driving test, an applicant for the certificate would have to provide a photo ID, such as a passport from one's native country, and submit fingerprints, proof of residency, and an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. The individual would then

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Also Inside:

Book reclaims history of Japanese in U.S. concentration camps in WW II

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK—"We need to reclaim this neglected past," said Karen Ishizuka of the experience of Japanese Americans detained in U.S. concentration camps during World War II.

"It's the story of everyday people making history," she said—from camp inmates who maintained their dignity in face of degrading conditions, to former prisoners and relatives who increasingly spoke out against the racist treatment of Japanese by the U.S. government.

Ishizuka was speaking February 28 at a well-attended presentation and slide show here on her book, *Lost and Found: Reclaiming the Japanese American Incarceration*. It was sponsored by the Asia/Pacific/American Studies Institute at New York University, and chaired by Jack Tchen, director of the APA Institute and author of the preface.

Lost and Found tells the story of an exhibition, "America's Concentration Camps," that opened at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles in 1994 and traveled throughout the United States over a decade. Ishizuka, whose parents and other relatives were among those detained, was the exhibit's curator. Many former prisoners, wearing badges with their photos while in the camps, served as volunteer guides at the exhibit, which drew throngs of people.

When the display was taken to the immigration museum on New York's Ellis Island, Ishizuka said, National Park Service officials at first demanded that "the word 'Concentration' be removed from the title." Japanese Americans and other supporters stood their ground, and the authorities backed down.

When Washington declared war on Japan in December 1941, seizing on Tokyo's bombing of Pearl Harbor, the U.S. rulers cranked up their chauvinist anti-Japanese campaign. In February 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the mass removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans.

A total of 120,000 Japanese on the West Coast were forced out of their homes and businesses and shipped to remote prison camps in seven states. Two-thirds were native-born U.S. citizens, and others were legal residents barred from citizenship (until 1952) by previous laws. Most lost their jobs, land, and businesses. Only in Hawaii, where Japanese were 35 percent of the population, were there no mass detentions; instead, Hawaii as a whole was put under martial law.

In the name of "national security," Japanese Americans were locked up "without charges, trials, or convictions," Ishizuka said, just for being Japanese.

At the time, U.S. officials—from white-supremacist senator John Rankin to liberal attorney general Francis Biddle—openly called these centers concentration camps. But they soon "shrouded the term in euphemisms," Ishizuka said.

Detention facilities were termed "assembly centers." Concentration camps became "relocation centers"—and even more grotesquely, "pioneer communities." Forced removal was called "evacuation." U.S. citizens of Japanese descent were branded "nonaliens" and legal residents "aliens."

Ishizuka presented slides from the book's photos depicting people in the camps. Their dignity under adverse conditions is manifest, from the photo of her grandmother as a young girl practicing her violin in an Arkansas camp, to her grandfather in his silk top hat and suit. After Pearl Harbor, her grandfather suddenly became an "alien enemy" in official records.


Photo of three inmates in Jerome, Arkansas, concentration camp, in 1943, where Karen Ishizuka's family was imprisoned.

The exhibition includes the testimony of two Black women who worked at the Topaz, Utah, camp, one as dietician and the other as a nurse, and who learned some Japanese and made friends with some inmates. As part of the government policy of discouraging fraternization with the Japanese, all staff was classified as "Caucasian"—including themselves. The racist administrators, of course, "didn't accept Negroes hardly better than they did the Japanese," said the nurse, Emma Perkins.

The book documents instances of protests by inmates, like the 85 men in Heart Mountain, Wyoming, convicted of draft resistance in 1944. It reprints a Feb. 27, 1944, article in the San Francisco *Chronicle* headlined: "Eleven Demands Presented to WRA: Nisei Ask Right to Go Anywhere in U.S." The article reports that detainees in Granada, Colorado, presented a letter to the War Relocation Authority demanding restoration of their rights as U.S. citizens, including an end to the segregation of Japanese Americans in the U.S. military into separate units.

Ishizuka described the rise in the early 1970s of the movement demanding redress for the incarceration of Japanese Americans. "No redress would have happened without a vigorous protest movement," she noted. Finally, President Ronald Reagan signed a 1988 bill providing for an official government apology and $20,000 each for surviving inmates.

The lessons of this history are relevant today, Ishizuka concluded. "Today, the same rhetoric has been used for the misuse of power and racial profiling in the name of national security," she said.

"A lot of our history still needs to be reclaimed," she said. "History is not a done deal. It's not always written, and it's not always written right."

Lost and Found is a real contribution to reclaiming this history and telling it right.

250 Chinese in N.Y. protest racist report

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK, April 2—Chanting, "Racism no! Defamation no!", "Report the news. Not make up the news!" and "Boycott CW11!" some 250 Chinese immigrants and their supporters rallied today in front of TV Channel 11 headquarters here. They were protesting a January 29 CW11 news report alleging that New Food King, a Chinese restaurant in Canarsie, Brooklyn, had served mouse meat in a takeout food order.

Speaking in both Chinese and English from the platform of a truck, representatives of Chinese associations in New York and others expressed outrage at the racist news report, and called on participants and passersby to boycott the TV station.

Pointing to anti-Chinese discrimination, Steve Wong of the Chinese Restaurant Alliance said many often let such slanders go and cross their fingers hoping the prejudice would go away. "But it keeps coming back, and it is not going to go away until we fight back." Wong and other speakers said the protests will continue until Channel 11 airs an apology.

"This is not an isolated issue," said Wong. "They could pick on Hispanics, Blacks, and other minorities."

Today's action was one in a series of protests. (See also "Thousands of Chinese protest racist report by N.Y. TV station" in March 19 *Militant*.)

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Vietnam still feels effects of U.S. Agent Orange poisoning

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

HANOI, Vietnam—"The first affected by Agent Orange poisoning were the soldiers, then their children, and now we are caring for the third generation," said Vu Van Man, a doctor and vice-director of the Friendship Village here, in a March 18 interview with the *Militant*. The village treats victims of dioxin poisoning caused by Washington's use of the chemical Agent Orange during its war against Vietnam in the 1960s and '70s.

"Dioxin has long effects," said Vu. "In some cases soldiers' children will be normal but their grandchildren will be born with deformities. Because Agent Orange effects the gene system, we don't know at what generation it will stop."

Veterans' and other mass organizations here launched an international campaign in 2004 to win compensation for the estimated 4 million Vietnamese victims of dioxin poisoning. Washington acknowledges having sprayed 20 million gallons of the deadly herbicide between 1962 and 1971, but claims there is little proof of its effects.

Washington maintains it used Agent Orange, a defoliant containing the chemical family dioxin, to clear jungles providing fighters of the National Liberation Front (NLF) cover and food. As the war intensified, fields used extensively by civilians to cultivate crops, and not just those suspected of supplying food to the NLF, were frequent targets.

Dioxin causes organ dysfunction, cancer, deformities, and mental retardation. Washington's massive use of the chemical during its decade-long assault on Vietnam and surrounding countries poisoned water supplies and soil that impact people in Southeast Asia to this day. As of 2004, the Vietnamese Red Cross reported that 150,000 children there have birth defects that can be directly traced to their parents' exposure to Agent Orange or the consumption of contaminated food and water.

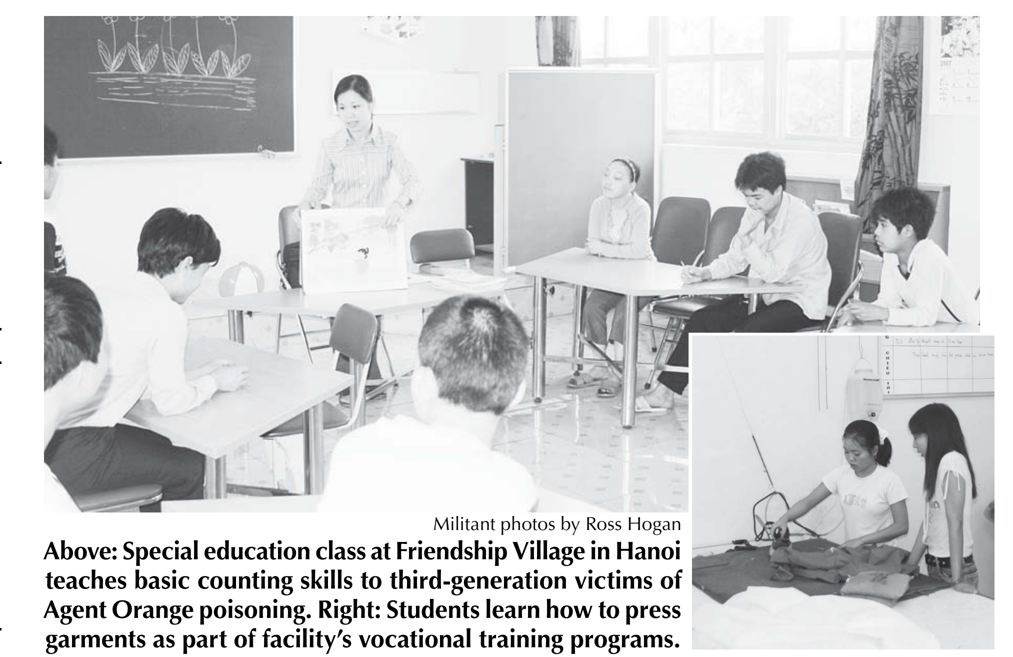
The Vietnamese government, veterans' organizations from six countries, including the United States, and the International Red Cross established a number of Friendship Villages throughout Vietnam in 1998. But the Hanoi facility is different, says Nguyen Ngoc Ha, a secretary here, because it focuses primarily on children. It currently treats 120 children aged 6 to 16, plus 40 veterans.

"Because so many people were affected by dioxin poisoning and we have limited finances, we give priority to those from poor families with many children," explained Nguyen. Most of the children here come from Guang Nam and Da Nong provinces in central Vietnam.

While patients suffer from a range of conditions, the most common are brain deformities, legal blindness, speech disorders, abnormal limb development, and disorders of the cardiovascular and gastrointestinal systems.

"We train the children so that they can have a sense of achievement," said Vu. "We teach them a daily routine like feeding and bathing themselves, to ease the burden on their families when they return. But many will continue to require assistance for even the simplest tasks," because their conditions are so severe.

In addition to special education, patients take vocational training classes.



Militant photos by Ross Hogan

Above: Special education class at Friendship Village in Hanoi teaches basic counting skills to third-generation victims of Agent Orange poisoning. Right: Students learn how to press garments as part of facility's vocational training programs.

According to Nguyen, 20 graduates from the sewing class have gone on to work in state-owned garment compounds. Many are too severely disabled to hold a job.

"Our main goal is to help them get a job and lead a normal life," said Nguyen. "But for most of the children it is too difficult, so we see the training as a way to get them active, to aid their therapy."

The facilities here include several buildings for housing, classes, and medical care, as well as a garden planted by volunteers and tended by patients. Most of the fruits and vegetables grown in the garden are used in the village kitchen to feed the patients, and the excess is sold at markets to help cover operating costs.

"Because most children come from the countryside, learning to catch fish helps their families make a living when they return," Nguyen said, as she showed us an on-site fishing pond.

Volunteers from 28 countries come for two-week stints to work on construction and maintenance projects. While *Militant* reporters were here, two young volunteers, Megan Hanifan from Alaska and Kei Kurihara from Japan, were putting the finishing touches of a new coat of paint in a patient's room.

In February, the U.S. government agreed to pay $400,000 toward a $1 million study to remove dioxin residues in Da Nang, Vietnam. But that's the closest it has come to acknowledging the impact of its massive poisoning of the Vietnamese people.

Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange are currently appealing the 2005 dismissal of a lawsuit against U.S. chemical companies that manufactured Agent Orange. U.S. veterans of the Vietnam War won the right to $180 million in compensation in a 1984 lawsuit against the same companies.

Meeting in Hanoi March 10–13, the General Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth adopted a resolution supporting the campaign for compensation. The document noted that "the legal struggle of the Vietnamese victims is not just for financial compensation, but . . . for peace and justice."

Referring to U.S. imperialism, the statement continued, "those who are abusing the pretext of preventing weapons of mass destruction in order to threaten and invade other countries are those who have used these kinds of weapons the most deliberately, systematically and extensively in the history of humankind and who are now trying in different ways to elude their responsibilities."

Ross Hogan and Jacob Perasso contributed to this article.

Illinois 'driver certificate' bill

Continued from front page

have to buy insurance within a month or their certificate would be canceled. The certificate will cost $60 instead of the $10 for the regular driver's license.

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and the Illinois Sheriffs Association are backing the bill. The certificates would give the police easy access to drivers' personal information. "It will absolutely be a bonus for law enforcement," said Laimutis Nargelenas, a deputy director of the police chiefs association.

The Illinois driver's certificate bill fits in with the U.S. government's moves to institute a national identification card.

Under the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, states are required to put personal information of their residents on a database that is to be made accessible to motor vehicle departments around the country by the end of 2009. National IDs exist in many imperialist countries in Europe—such as France, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal, Germany, and Spain—as well as in many semicolonial countries. In addition to tracking movements, such identification systems have been used to facilitate state and employer blacklists. They also help to enforce the second-class status of oppressed nationalities, and exert greater state control over the population.

While there is broad initial support for the driver's certificate bill among immigrant workers here, some are opposing the measure. Martha, an immigrant worker who asked to be identified only by her first name, explained, "It's good to have a license but not one that's different from the regular license. This would be used to finger the undocumented."

Rollande Girard is a garment worker and member of UNITE HERE Local 39C in Chicago.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

New York Premiere of Documentary *¡Salud!* Sat., April 14, 3:00 p.m. Documentary traces the conflicting agendas in the quest for global health. Filmed in Cuba, South Africa, The Gambia, Honduras, and Venezuela. Screening sponsored by Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba and the Center for Cuban Studies. *Quad Cinema, 34 W. 13th Street. Tickets $25. Call (718) 416-1653 to RSVP.*

Presentations of 'Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution'

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Wed., April 18, 3:00 p.m. Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *Our History Is Still Being Written* and president of Pathfinder Press; Meizhu Lui, executive director, United for a Fair Economy, coauthor *The Color of Wealth*; Omar Ocampo, political science major, UMass Boston; Facilitator, Andrew Leong, associate professor, CPCS, Asian American Studies. Sponsors include Asian American Studies Program, Africana Studies Department, Latino Studies Program, Asian Student Center, Black Student Center, Casa Latina, and July 26th Coalition. *University of Massachusetts, Boston. Campus Center, Ballroom. For more information, call (877) 379-0467.*

NEW JERSEY

Montclair

Thurs., April 12. Reception, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Speakers: Mabel Almonte, Latin American Student Organization; Yoland Skeete, director, Sumei Multidisciplinary Arts Center in Newark, author of forthcoming book *When Newark Had a Chinatown*; Martín Koppel, an interviewer for the book *Our History Is Still Being Written. University Hall, Room 1040, Montclair State University. For more information, call (973) 655-4440.*

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Tues., April 10. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:00 p.m. Speakers: Tony Chan, associate professor of Communication and International Studies, UW and author of *Gold Mountain: The Chinese in the New World*; Moon-Ho Jung, associate professor, Asian American History, UW and author of *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar Production in the Age of Emancipation*; Martín Koppel, an interviewer for the book *Our History Is Still Being Written*; Freedom Allah Siyam, political education officer, BAYAN-USA. Sponsors include Department of American Ethnic Studies, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, Latin American Studies Program, BAYAN-USA, and MEChA. *University of Washington, Seattle campus, Smith Hall, Room 205 (Smith Hall is located in the Quad). For more information, call (206) 323-1755.*

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

The First and Second Declarations of Havana: Their Relevance for Today. Fri., April 13. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *3926 Mission. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.*

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Stop Police Brutality! Speaker: Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 13, 7:00 p.m. *3557 S. Archer Ave. Tel.: (773) 890-1190.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Documentary Film Showing of *Chinese in the Frontier West.* Fri., April 13. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. *307 W. 36th St. (use north elevators) 10th Floor. Tel.: (212) 629-6649.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Imperialism's Sharpening Confrontation with Iran: Why Working People Should Oppose All Sanctions and Military Threats. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani. Sat., April 14. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. *3717 Georgia Avenue NW. Tel.: (202) 536-5080.*

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Cuban Revolution and the Fight For Socialism Today. Speaker: Bob Aiken, Pathfinder volunteer at Havana Book Fair. Sat., April 14, 6:00 p.m., *281–287 Beamish St., Upstairs. Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718 9698.*

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Is U.S. Congress Ending the War in Iraq? Speaker: Anita Ostling. Fri., April 13, 7:00 p.m. *Bildhuggarvägen 17, Johanneshov. Tel.: 08 316933.*

Young Socialists campaign for freedom for Cuban 5

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

BY BEN O'SHAUGHNESSY

NEW YORK, April 2—With just under a month remaining in an international youth campaign in solidarity with the Cuban Five, the Young Socialists have stepped up their efforts to broaden support for the framed-up Cuban revolutionaries held in U.S. jails (see article on page 7). The campaign, initiated January 10 by the Union of Young Communists and other mass youth organizations in Cuba, will culminate with an international conference in Havana April 29–30.

On the March 24 weekend, Young Socialists from across the Northeast participated in the Latino Unity Conference hosted by the student group Latinos Unidos con Honor y Amistad at New York University, and in the 17th Annual National Latino Collegiate Conference hosted by Fuerza Latina at the State University of New York at Albany.

At both events, YS members distributed literature on the case of the Cuban Five and promoted an April 7 demonstration in New York calling for their release.

On March 28, about a dozen students and others attended a program at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, on the Cuban Five and Washington's economic and political war against the Cuban Revolution. Young Socialist Eddie Beck, a student at that campus, and Maura DeLuca, a New York garment worker and member of the YS National Steering Committee, both spoke. The event was sponsored by Latinos United Networking America, Rutgers Acts for Peace and Justice, and the Young Socialists.

"In order to understand why the Cuban Five are in prison, you have to go back to 1959–60," said Beck. The Cuban people toppled a hated U.S.-backed dictatorship in 1959. Responding to mobilizations and factory "interventions" by working people, Cuba's new revolutionary government nationalized all imperialist owned enterprises, foreign- and Cuban-owned banks, and large-scale Cuban-owned industries by the end of the next year.

Beck described the record of U.S.-sponsored counterrevolutionary activity against Cuba—from the April 1961 U.S.-backed mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs, where Cuba's "revolutionary forces mobilized and dealt U.S. imperialism its first military defeat in the Americas," to the 1976 bombing of a Cubana Airlines flight out of Barbados, carried out by counterrevolutionaries with U.S. blessings.

The five Cuban militants were protecting the Cuban people from these types of actions, Beck noted.

DeLuca described her experiences in Cuba as part of a *Militant* reporting team during the Havana book fair in February. There she saw firsthand the gains working people in Cuba have won through their socialist revolution.

"These five men aren't much different from everyday Cubans," she said. "They will not back down. Just as Cuba's working people have never flinched in face of imperialist aggression."

One student asked what will happen after Fidel Castro's death. "We are already seeing a post-Fidel Cuba," DeLuca said, noting that since the Cuban president's hospitalization last year working people have showed firm committment to the revolution. "Cubans explain how the 'transition' in the country's leadership took place when they overthrew the Batista dictatorship," she said.

"Is the Young Socialists interested in making a revolution in the U.S. just like in Cuba?" another student asked.

"We look to the example of the Cuban Revolution as something working people in the United States can emulate," said DeLuca. "We work with the Socialist Workers Party to build a movement that can educate and organize the working class to overthrow capitalism, establish a government of workers and farmers, and join in the international struggle for socialism. The only way humanity can end war, class exploitation, sexism, and national oppression is if the working class gets rid of the dog-eat-dog system of capitalism and replaces it with a system that puts human needs first."

After the program, Beck urged people to get involved in the campaign and to help build and join the April 7 demonstrations in New York and Los Angeles to demand: "U.S. hands off Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivia! Free the Cuban Five!"



Militant/Ben O'Shaughnessy

Maura DeLuca speaks March 28 at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, along with Eddie Beck, to win support for the campaign to free the Cuban Five.

'Militant' subs

Continued from front page

on disability. After some discussion, he got on the phone and signed up four of his friends for subscriptions." The next day, Carmen Casado, another subscriber, stopped by a *Militant* literature table in the Inwood section of upper Manhattan. "She took three copies of the paper and sub blanks to show to her coworkers in the garment shop where she works," Fein reported. "She told us, 'Give me a week to sell the subs.'"

"Three of us sold 50 copies of the *Militant* March 31 at the entrance to the Swift packing plant in Worthington, Minnesota," said Tom Fiske, a meat packer in Minneapolis. "Afterwards we sold three introductory subs and one renewal. Christian, a young Chilean in the Twin Cities who is a sympathizer of the Young Socialists, sold the most papers at the plant gate."

The socialist newsweekly was well received at events to support the call for a national holiday to honor United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez in San Francisco and Salinas, California, last weekend. Twenty-one people at these events subscribed, reported Joel Britton, a meat packer in the Bay Area. Three of them bought the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism* at the $1 special offer with a *Militant* sub.

Join the effort! Order a bundle at 70 cents per copy, if you don't already get one, or contact the *Militant*, or distributors listed on page 8, to get involved.

'Militant' Subscription Drive March 31 – May 27, 2007

Country	Quota	Sold
AUSTRALIA	45	6
CANADA	130	11
ICELAND	12	0
NEW ZEALAND	60	9
SWEDEN	35	4
UNITED KINGDOM		
Edinburgh	30	1
London	75	5
U.K. Total	105	6
UNITED STATES		
Albany, NY	10	2
Atlanta	115	2
Birmingham	125	10
Boston	85	8
Chicago	90	7
Des Moines	125	10
Houston	100	3
Los Angeles	120	0
Miami	170	18
New York	320	21
Newark, NJ	120	15
Philadelphia	120	13
Pittsburgh	65	3
San Diego	10	1
San Francisco	110	21
Seattle	70	4
Twin Cities	140	0
Washington, DC	105	6
U.S. Total	2,000	144
Int'l totals	**2,387**	**180**
Goal	**2,400**	

'La migra' raids in Baltimore

Continued from front page

they are doing it for the good of the country," said José Ramírez Sánchez, a construction worker from Mexico. His wife, Anadelia Carrillo, was among those arrested at the Under Armour clothing warehouse just south of Baltimore.

"All we want to do is feed our families and make a better life," said Simon, a worker from Ghana who asked to be identified only by his first name. He added that two of his friends had been among those arrested.

A statement released March 29 by ICE said, "Today's enforcement action is part of ICE's aggressive pursuit of employers who violate the law."

A large sign was taped to the window of the temporary agency's Baltimore offices the day of the raid, which said, "Closed." Two days later a smaller sign posted in the lobby said the company would resume accepting applications April 10.

The ICE statement said that each of the workers would be interviewed by various social service agencies to determine if any should be considered for "humanitarian release."

Tapia Guncay and her husband Jury Guncay were arrested at the Dixie Printing and Packaging company. Jury remains in custody. Tapia was released because they have a 10-year-old daughter. She must wear an electronic monitor on her ankle and is under partial house arrest until her case comes before an immigration court.

The raid came one day after a federal judge sentenced Tzu Ming Yang, the principal owner of a chain of Japanese restaurants in the city, to five months in jail for knowingly hiring undocumented workers. Yang and two associates also paid $700,000 in restitution and have agreed to pay an equal amount in back taxes, reported the *Baltimore Sun*.

'Militant' fund

Continued from front page

the March 24 grand opening of the new Militant Labor Forum hall in Atlanta, those present contributed more than $1,100 on the spot and pledged an additional $3,975. Participants at a March 30 Militant Labor Forum in New York donated $400 and pledged an additional $3,900.

In the first four days of the campaign, the *Militant* received nearly $2,000 for the fund. On a weekly basis, $12,500 is needed to allow the paper to meet its projections.

These include sending international reporting teams this month to cover the Womens' International Democratic Federation conference in Caracas, Venezuela, April 9–12, and the April 29–30 international youth conference on the Cuban Five. So funds are needed urgently.

Donate generously, and convince coworkers, fellow students, neighbors, and friends to do the same. Please make out checks to the *Militant,* earmarked "Fund Drive," and send them to the paper at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

$100,000 'Militant' Fund Drive March 31 –May 27

Country	Quota	Paid
AUSTRALIA	1,400	0
CANADA	3,500	0
ICELAND	450	0
NEW ZEALAND	2,800	0
SWEDEN	500	0
U.S.		
Albany, NY	50	0
Atlanta	6,000	1,105
Birmingham	2,500	0
Boston	3,800	0
Chicago	5,000	0
Des Moines	2,000	0
Houston	3,000	0
Los Angeles	8,000	0
Miami	3,200	0
New York	14,000	575
Newark, NJ	3,500	300
Philadelphia	3,800	0
Pittsburgh	3,000	0
San Diego	500	0
San Francisco	10,000	0
Seattle	7,000	0
Twin Cities	5,000	0
Washington, D.C.	3,000	0
U.S. total	83,350	1,980
Intl totals	92,000	1,980
Goal/Should be	100,000	0

Striking shipyard workers in Mississippi fight for better pay

A strike by nearly 8,000 workers against the Northrop Grumman shipbuilding company in Pascagoula, Mississippi, is entering its fourth week. Talks between union representatives and the company on March 21 and March 27 ended with no further contract proposals.

Workers at the shipyard, who belong to 15 different unions, have voted down two contract proposals so far. According to union members walking the line, the company's proposed wage increase of $2.50 an hour over three years is insufficient to meet the skyrocketing cost of living in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Workers are also opposed to the proposed increase in insurance payments.



D. J. Jones, a shipyard worker on the picket line in Pascagoula, Mississippi, shouts at a passing car on March 12. Nearly 8,000 workers walked out of the Northrop Grumman shipyard there on March 8.

Safety is also a big reason workers are striking against the company. "We all still want more money, but you've got people out here welding, burning your eyes on a daily basis and nobody with the company is even talking about vision [insurance] being offered," said striker Valery Mitchell to the *Mississippi Press* March 26.

Louis Shelby, on the picket line in front of Northrop Grumman March 23, told reporters he is preparing for a long strike, even if it means looking for a second job. "I'm used to making do with what I have," he said, adding that he is ready to stay out until there is a good contract offer.

—Paul Mailhot

1,200 coal miners strike in Illinois, Pennsylvania

Continued from front page

wage concessions for the 236 UMWA miners employed at its Wabash Mine near Keensburg, Illinois.

The strike affects that mine and also the Cumberland and Emerald mines here, which together employ about 950 union miners.

"We're here to stand up to Foundation Coal," UMWA president Cecil Roberts told a rally of 2,000 miners near the Cumberland and Emerald mines on the first day of the strike. "We are going to stay out one day longer."

"We came into this union fighting and we'll die fighting," Joe Hamilton, president of UMWA Local 1791, which represents the Wabash miners, told the cheering crowd.

Foundation announced today its intention to close the Wabash Mine, stating, "The UMWA has insisted that Wabash must sign the 2007 National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement, and Wabash does not believe it can justify continued operations absent a different wage agreement." Foundation owns another 11 mines in Appalachia and in Wyoming's Powder River Basin.

The national coal contract, signed last December by the UMWA and Consol Energy, is the model on which the union bases negotiations with other coal bosses. A half-dozen other coal companies have since signed contracts on terms mirroring those in the national accord.

Vanishing pensions: How can we fight back?

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

CARLSTADT, New Jersey, March 24—"The company knew it wasn't paying enough."

"The union stole our money."

Those were two common reactions at Thumann's, a packing plant employing 200 workers in northern New Jersey organized by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1245.

UNION TALK

They came the day we got news the fund our pensions come out of was in trouble.

Trouble how big? Capital "T." Short by at least $7 million. And that's just for workers and retirees at this company.

Add in other packing plants in the area that draw pensions from the same union-administered fund and the total missing is more than $85 million.

How did this happen? Who's responsible?

Nine workers at the plant circulated a letter to the union asking for an answer. Written in Spanish, Polish, and English, it was signed by 146 coworkers. The letter was sent in by our shop steward. It asked the president to meet with us to explain—with translators—what had happened, and what the union was going to do about it.

Workers in the plant express a range of views about the "pension mess."

Some say, "Not to worry." If the fund goes down the tubes, the government will step in and guarantee the pensions. We might "lose a little," though.

The union is to blame, many say. They are all a bunch of crooks. One goes to jail, the next is even worse.

Others argue a different local might be better. A few—including some with experience in other industries where pensions were cut, shrunk, or vanished—explain it is the company and the government that are fundamentally responsible.

It is the company that stopped funding the plan, they point out. It is the company that cares about profits, not our lives—either while we are working or after we retire. We have no real guarantees of any kind. That includes from the government, which has left itself plenty of loopholes for cutting pension benefits.

And don't forget the timing, they say. The pension "news" comes on the eve of contract talks, scheduled for May. The company will try to use it to chop wages and benefits.

Readers of the *Militant* in the plant are part of these discussions. Our goal is to connect what begins as a deep personal concern with a grasp of the broader underlying forces that have risen up and smacked us.

The bosses are on the attack, we explain. Faced with fierce competition and shrinking profits, they make us work more hours (when it suits them), work faster, and work in conditions that are less and less safe.

At the same time the federal government wants to cut back as much as they can get away with. They go after Social Security. They say they can't afford it. They see us as just parts of a machine. Parts that can be thrown out as we (inevitably) get injured, sick, or old. But we won Social Security—just like all other entitlements—through struggle. The fight to keep them is a fight for solidarity with all other workers.

To divide us, both the bosses and the government play up our differences.

They try to pit men against women, white against Black, skilled against helpers, U.S.-born against immigrants, Polish against Mexican, Mexican against Black, old against young.

You name it: if there is a shade of difference, they try to use it to drive us apart, to cut across our solidarity with each other.

They try to blame *us* for the crisis of their own capitalist economic system, but the reality is it is *their* system that is at fault.

We are paying the price, supporters of the *Militant* explain, for a deal made long ago, a deal many of us never even heard about.

Sixty years ago, after the big strikes that followed World War II, the leaders of our unions gave up the fight for a *comprehensive, national, government-guaranteed pension plan* independent of what happened to a particular industry or factory—a fight whose outcome was far from decided in the bosses' favor.

We won the right to Social Security in the 1930s.

That was the first step by us—by working people—to get lifetime protection.

It was part of the battle to bring *all benefits, all medical claims, all disability claims, all welfare claims* into one program—backed by the government—that couldn't be taken away. Something we were entitled to in addition to a wage.

Instead of continuing that fight the top officials of our unions took a different course. They accepted tying pensions and other "benefits" to the profits of individual companies, which does not benefit working people.

This is the hole we—and millions of others—have to dig ourselves out of.

We need to become part of, to help build, a revolutionary working-class party, drawing strength from what millions of us did since last year by taking part in strikes and other actions to demand legalization of all immigrants, which has politicized the working class.

Becoming part of such a party will deepen the political understanding of all of us about who and what we face and how to effectively take on the bosses.

Building such a revolutionary party is also a precondition today to making our unions stronger, to changing them into tools that can help us fight for the kind of permanent, government-guaranteed pensions we really need.

This is our job. Nobody is going to do it for us.

Michael Baumann is a meat packer at Thumann's and a member of UFCW Local 1245.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 16, 1982

"If we have to fight we will," British Defense Secretary John Nott declared April 4, as the largest British fleet assembled since World War II prepared to sail for Argentina. The British war moves were in response to the Argentine government's decision to take possession of the Malvinas Islands (called the Falkland Islands by the British). Several thousand Argentine troops landed on the Malvinas April 2, an action that enraged the British ruling class. Although the islands rightfully belong to Argentina, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denounced the Argentine move as "an act of unprovoked aggression," and Nott vowed to "restore British administration to the Falklands even if we have to fight."

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

April 15, 1957

A week of fighting the police and army has ended in Santiago, the capital of Chile. It began with students protesting a bus fare increase in the inflation-wracked country. Police brutality, including the killing of a 23-year-old girl student, brought on a general strike of students and the outpouring of workers against the police and bus company. Martial law was declared. Casualties were 18 dead, 500 wounded, 1,000 arrested. The right to freedom of the press was another casualty. Eighteen, including two leaders of a central labor union, have been exiled to the remote interior of the country. On April 8 the government lowered bus fares back down to the old rate.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

April 16, 1932

The three New York marine workers—Soderberg, Bunker and Trajer—who have been on trial for the past three weeks in the Court of General Sessions, were found guilty by the jury after five hours' deliberation on Monday, April 11. The men were charged with a conspiracy to dynamite barges in the New York harbor in a struggle between the boat owners and the Boatmen's Union.

One of the chief factors in the result of the trial was the flagrant unfairness manifested by Judge Allen in his rulings. For all who were present in the court room, the trial was a graphic illustration of class justice, and likewise of the fallacy that militant workers can get a fair trial in the courts of capitalism.

Toronto event promotes book on Chinese Cubans in the Cuban Revolution



Militant/Guy Tremblay

Panel at March 25 meeting in Toronto to discuss the book *Our History Is Still Being Written*. From left: Colleen Hua, president of the Chinese Canadian National Council; Laureano Cardoso, Cuban consul general in Toronto; Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and editor of the book; Cheuk Kwan, filmmaker; and Karen Sun, executive director, Chinese Canadian National Council in Toronto.

BY JOE YOUNG

TORONTO—"If you have read the book or been to Cuba you know that the revolution has created a society where there really isn't discrimination against Chinese," said chairperson Karen Sun. She was opening a March 25 meeting here on the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

Sun is the executive director of the Toronto chapter of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC), one of the organizations that sponsored the panel discussion, which attracted a packed audience of some 120 people. The national CCNC, the Toronto Free the Cuban Five Committee, the Chinese Magazine of the University of Toronto, and Pathfinder Books also sponsored the event, held at the University of Toronto.

The program started with music, dance, and film. A performance by an Afro-Cuban dance group was followed by two Cantonese opera selections sung by Lai Ching Lau. As Doug Ham, a prominent historian of the Chinese community in Canada, told the audience, Cantonese opera has played an important cultural role among emigrants from China in many parts of the world.

A short clip from the documentary *Chinese Restaurants: On the Islands* by Chinese Canadian filmmaker Cheuk Kwan introduced the audience to the Chinatown in Havana today.

Laureano Cardoso, the Cuban consul general in Toronto, opened the panel discussion. He and Armando Choy, one of the three generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces whose life stories are at the center of the book, were teenagers together in the city of Santa Clara. While there in the 1950s, they became involved in the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

Cardoso emphasized the integration of Cubans of Chinese ancestry in the revolutionary struggle and in the Rebel Army. He described the monument in Havana dedicated to the Chinese who fought for Cuban independence from Spain at the end of the nineteenth century. "Thousands of Chinese participated in Cuba's wars of independence," he noted. "Of these, it is said, there was 'not a single Chinese Cuban deserter. Not a single Chinese Cuban traitor.'"

Filmmaker Cheuk Kwan noted that the Chinese brought to Cuba as indentured laborers were practically slaves. Kwan described how in Cuba, while working on his documentary, he had found a number of surviving Chinese associations, including one based on those who had emigrated to Cuba from his ancestral village. "I didn't find many Chinese faces, however. It is as if the Chinese have disappeared. But, in fact, they have been integrated into Cuban society." There is "a famous saying by a Cuban poet that is very true," he remarked. "Cubans are one part Chinese, one part Spanish and one part Black."

Colleen Hua, national president of the Chinese Canadian National Council, said the history of the Chinese in Cuba was "something I didn't know about before I read the book." She quoted the answer given by one of the generals, Moíses Sío Wong, to a question about why the Chinese in Cuba are not targets of discrimination as they are elsewhere in the Americas. "What's the difference in the experience of Chinese in Cuba and other countries of the diaspora? The difference is that here a socialist revolution took place. The revolution eliminated discrimination based on the color of a person's skin. Above all, it eliminated the property relations that create not only economic but also social inequality between rich and poor."

"This really spoke to me," Hua said. "Here many of you know of the struggle to get recognition for those who paid the head tax, and their descendents." Many Chinese were forced to pay a tax of up to $500 each to come to Canada between 1885 and 1923, and then they were virtually excluded until 1947.

Mary-Alice Waters, who interviewed the three generals and edited *Our History Is Still Being Written*, was the last speaker. She pointed out the importance of the book for readers in Canada and the United States. "Working people in Cuba didn't consciously start out to make a socialist revolution when they fought to overthrow the Batista dictatorship 50 years ago," she noted. "They were just determined to build a society with a greater degree of social equality."

They carried out a land reform, a literacy campaign, reduced unemployment, brought women into the workforce, and put an end to institutionalized racist discrimination against Blacks and Chinese. "As they did this they came into head-on conflict with the ruling families of the United States that owned vast amounts of the productive land and industry in Cuba. The conflict came as Cuban working people simply refused to back down. Men and women like Choy, [Gustavo] Chui, and Sío Wong were ordinary young people who built a new society and in the process transformed themselves."

Waters pointed out that "the book makes us want to know more about our own history in the U.S. and Canada—not only the exclusion acts, pogroms, and onerous taxes of all kinds, but more importantly the proud history of resistance." The wide interest in *Our History Is Still Being Written*, she added, reflects "new winds that are blowing, growing confidence and pride, and new struggles that are on the horizon."

During the lively discussion period, Ted Chang, a student at Sir Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, asked when the "Chinese had moved out of Cuba."

Waters replied that the misconception that "there aren't any Chinese in Cuba anymore" is based on lies fostered by imperialism. "It is true that there are no longer tens of thousands of native-born Chinese in Cuba. There has been little immigration in recent decades. But the fact is there are hundreds of thousands, probably millions, of Cubans of Chinese ancestry. No one knows the exact figure because they are so integrated. That process came about as part of the revolutionary struggle for independence that was intertwined with the struggle for the abolition of slavery and indentured labor in all forms. As part of the revolutionary struggle against U.S. imperialist domination and the Batista dictatorship. As part of the struggle to build a socialist society. That is why Cuba is so deeply different from elsewhere in the Americas."

In response to another question on the difference between the position of Chinese in Cuba and Canada, Colleen Hua commented that the Chinese in Canada "fought and died for this country" in the Second World War. That is why the Exclusion Act in Canada was repealed in 1947. "Why did they not grant citizenship at that point?" she asked.

In her concluding remarks, Waters noted that the U.S. exclusion act, which was passed in 1882, was similarly repealed in 1943 as a move to bolster the Chiang Kai-shek government of China and Washington's wartime alliance against Japan. It was not a recognition that Chinese Americans had fought for U.S. imperialism.

Katherine Ng, who is studying human rights in Canada at Ryerson University, said she found the meeting "very informative. I learned about Cuba and the Chinese influence in Cuba and the difference in how Canadians and Cubans treat Chinese."

Val Pollock, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union who works at Maple Leaf Pork, said, "It made me want to study more the struggles of different ethnic groups in different countries and learn more about the Chinese in Canada."

After the meeting participants remained for more than an hour drinking tea and eating Chinese buns as they continued discussing and looking at displays and videos. Participants bought 15 copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written* in English and Spanish, as well as a dozen other Pathfinder titles. An article with a color photo of the meeting appeared the next day in *Sing Tao*, one of the main Chinese dailies in Toronto.

Event held in Alabama on book by Chinese Cuban generals

BY SUSAN LAMONT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—"Having read *Our History*, it is clear to me how closely associated the Cuban Revolution is with what happened right here in Birmingham," said Horace Huntley, welcoming the audience at a March 31 meeting here to discuss *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

Huntley, a history professor at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) and head of the Oral History Project at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, was referring to the pivotal Black rights battles that took place here in the 1950s and early 1960s.

The event, held at UAB, was sponsored by the Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA), the Student African-American Studies Association (SAASA), and Pathfinder Books. More than 50 people attended, including 15 students and other youth.

"We are very proud of the three Chinese generals and their achievements," said Youfeng Yang from CSSA, speaking in Mandarin with translation by a fellow student. "I urge everyone to read this valuable book and learn about Cuba's socialist society." Hundreds of students from China study at UAB, and several attended the event.

Anamaria Santiago, from the Spanish and Latino Student Association, said that before reading *Our History Is Still Being Written* all she heard about Cuba was hostile propaganda in the daily media. "But what I read in this book showed regular citizens of Cuba who accomplished and continue to accomplish incredible things." Theodore Foster from SAASA also gave welcoming remarks.

Dennis Laumann, professor of African history at the University of Memphis, said he was impressed with the account of how the three generals "joined tens of thousands of fellow Cuban internationalists, most of African origin, to help Angolans protect their sovereignty and, by extension, end apartheid in southern Africa. What a fantastic story indeed, an epic about liberation!"

"The 1959 Cuban Revolution was part of the explosion of national liberation struggles around the world in the 1950s and '60s, intertwined with the massive movement for Black rights in the United States," said Martín Koppel, who helped interview the Cuban generals for the book. "Here, as in Cuba, thousands of Black workers and young people stood up to the police and filled the jails, fighting for their freedom." Cuba's socialist

Continued on page 8

The Cuban 5: revolutionaries framed up by Washington

The case for fighting to win their freedom

BY RÓGER CALERO

An international campaign to demand freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the United States is currently in full swing. The Union of Young Communists and other mass youth organizations in Cuba have called an international youth conference in Havana, set for April 29–30, to exchange experiences on progress in the fight to win public support for improving prison conditions for the five, putting pressure on Washington to allow their loved ones to visit them in jail, and eventually winning their freedom (see also Young Socialists in Action column on page 4).

To aid this campaign, the facts on who the five revolutionaries are and how they were framed up by Washington need to be told.

Gerardo Hernández, René González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González—the Cuban Five, as they are known—have been imprisoned in U.S. federal penitentiaries for more than eight years. They are serving sentences of 15 years to a double life term.

The five men were arrested in 1998 and convicted in a June 2001 frame-up trial of "conspiracy to commit espionage" for the government of Cuba, "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent," and—in the case of Hernández—"conspiracy to commit murder."

The five had entered and had been gathering information on right-wing Cuban American groups based in southern Florida that have an extensive record of carrying out violent attacks on Cuba from U.S. soil with Washington's complicity.

In 1998 the FBI announced with much fanfare, which the media played up, that it had discovered a "Cuban spy network" in Florida. The five men were arrested and initially charged with trying to "infiltrate" the Florida-based U.S. Southern Command, passing U.S. "military secrets" to Havana, and "disrupting" right-wing Cuban American groups in Miami. The charge of "conspiracy to commit murder" was later added against Hernández.

Unable to prove that the five men had committed any such acts, including the supposed theft of U.S. military secrets, Washington charged them with "conspiracy" to commit espionage and related activities. A jury convicted the five on those charges on June 8, 2001.

The arrests, trial, and sentencing of the five revolutionaries were mired with violations of constitutional protections. These included use of "evidence" that FBI agents said they had collected by repeatedly breaking into the homes of the five over the three years prior to their arrests, violating Fourth Amendment protection against arbitrary search and seizure.

Furthermore, the judge refused a motion by the defense to move the trial out of Miami on the basis that it was not possible to get a fair hearing for such a case, given the number of opponents of the Cuban Revolution in that city and the media hype that had already branded the defendants as "guilty spies."

In the legal brief appealing the convictions, Leonard Weinglass, a lead defense attorney, described how a rightist dressed in military fatigues and wearing pictures of bazookas had entered the courtroom in Miami during the 2001 trial.

"If the jury didn't know before they knew now what the reaction would be," said Weinglass. "The trial should have been moved 25 miles away to Fort Lauderdale."

Acting on the appeal, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta reviewed the trial. On Aug. 9, 2005, the panel ruled that the defendants were denied a fair trial because of the "perfect storm created by pretrial publicity surrounding this case," the "pervasive community prejudice," and "the government's use of inflammatory statements during closing arguments." It annulled their convictions and ordered a new trial. But this victory in the pursuit of justice for the five was short-lived.

Washington demanded a review and reversal of the three-judge panel decision. Exactly one year later—on Aug. 9, 2006—the full 12-judge panel of the same court upheld the convictions of the five.

Since then, the defense has been preparing the next steps in the legal battle, which may reach as high as the Supreme Court.

History of attacks against Cuba

The five revolutionaries maintained that the information they were gathering on right-wing groups was publicly available.

"Our tiny nation, which has heroically survived four decades of aggressions and threats to its national security, of subversion plans, sabotage, and destabilization, has every right to defend itself from its enemies who keep using U.S. territory," said the five men in a June 17, 2001, statement they released to the American people while behind bars.

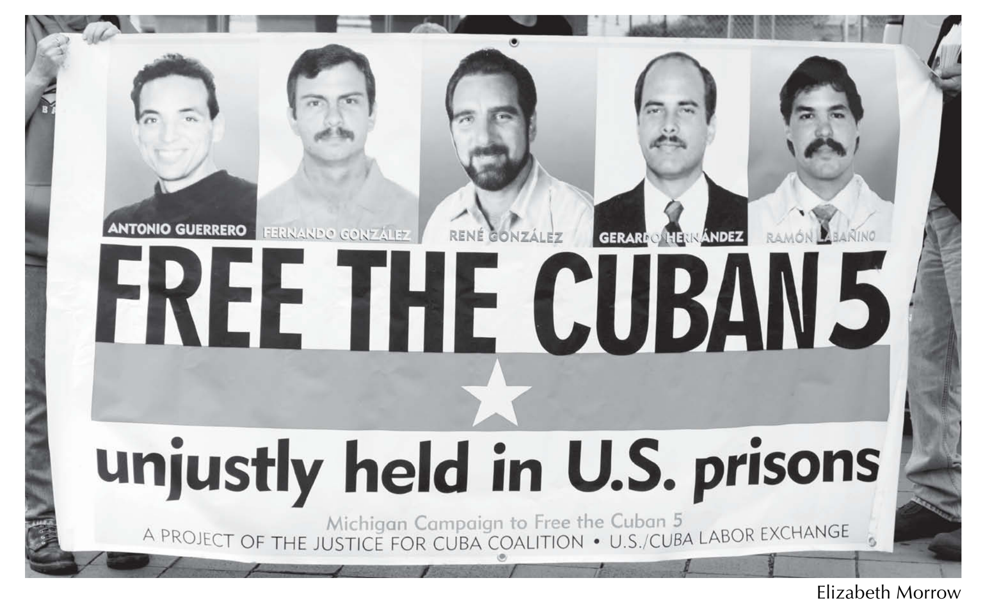
Their defense presented extensive information during the trial on how U.S.-based Cuban American groups have carried out attacks against Cuba since the 1959 revolution. The defense also succeeded in exposing the way the U.S. government has provided a base of operations for these organizations, and has refused to take any effective measures to halt their activities, many of which violate U.S. laws.

These include the October 1976 bombing of a Cuban plane flying out of Barbados that killed 73 people, including the entire Cuban fencing team returning from an international competition; a series of bombings of hotels and tourist spots in Cuba in 1997; numerous acts of sabotage carried out against the Cuban people; and violent attacks on opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba in Miami and elsewhere in southern Florida.

Shoot down of contra planes

Gerardo Hernández was found guilty of "conspiracy to commit murder" for allegedly providing Cuban authorities with flight plans of four pilots belonging to Brothers to the Rescue. This is a Cuban American counterrevolutionary group, which, until 1996, had violated Cuba's airspace by sending numerous provocative flights over the island and dropping flyers in an effort to incite the Cuban people to topple their government.

After repeated warnings by Havana that were ignored—both by Washington and this group—the Cuban Air Force shot down on Feb. 24, 1996, two Brothers to the Rescue planes that had entered the country's airspace and refused once again to heed the order to turn back.



Elizabeth Morrow

Banner at Sept. 23, 2006, march of several hundred in Washington demanding freedom for the five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in U.S. jails for more than eight years.

Claiming that the planes were shot down over international waters, Washington used the incident to launch a smear campaign against the Cuban Revolution and intensify its economic war against Cuba.

Evidence the defense presented at the trial showed that the Brothers to the Rescue pilots were well inside Cuba's airspace when they were shot down, rebutting Washington's claims.

Despite these facts, in mid-December 2001, Hernández was sentenced to two consecutive life terms plus 80 months in jail on these trumped-up charges. "Never before had a criminal charge been based upon the act of a sovereign state defending its own territory," said Weinglass, about the unprecedented character of the case. "Hernández was not involved in any way in the shoot down."

A few days later, Ramón Labañino was sentenced to one life term plus 18 years; René González received a 15-year sentence; Fernando González got 19 years in prison; and Antonio Guerrero was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 10 years.

Who are the Cuban Five?

All five men have set unblemished examples as revolutionaries who have devoted their lives not only to the defense of Cuba's sovereignty and its socialist revolution, but to the worldwide fight to end imperialist domination and for national liberation.

Prior to taking up their internationalist mission in the United States, three of the five—Hernández, René González, and Fernando González—were among the 300,000 Cuban volunteer troops that fought alongside the Angolan army to beat back the U.S.-backed invasion of that country by the South African army of the apartheid regime. All of the five played an active political role in the Cuban Revolution from their student years to their working lives. As a cadre of the Union of Young Communists, René González, for example, volunteered to go to the countryside as part of a teaching contingent. All of the five are members of the Cuban Communist Party.

Behind prison walls the Cuban Five have conducted themselves as exemplary revolutionaries with a keen interest in the U.S. class struggle. They have been passing on to fellow inmates revolutionary literature they receive and study. They have received messages of support and have extended their solidarity to workers involved in strikes and other struggles in the United States.

Washington has refused to recognize them as political prisoners.

Prison conditions

After their arrests the five were held in solitary confinement for 17 months. Then again in February 2003 all five were thrown into the "hole" after a Justice Department order charging that the extensive solidarity they were receiving in the form of correspondence and the few visitors they were allowed made them a "national security risk." They were kept in solitary for a month.

Right after their sentencing the five were separated into five different prisons across the United States, thousands of miles apart from each other. They have been subjected to the strictest conditions of incarceration. Their telephone contacts are controlled and limited. Correspondence and literature sent to the five often never reaches them because of arbitrary application of prison rules.

They have also been denied the right to receive regular visits, including from their loved ones. U.S. authorities have repeatedly denied visas to relatives of two of the five to travel from Cuba to visit them in prison.

Adriana Pérez, Hernández's wife, has not seen her husband since his arrest in 1998. She has applied six times for a U.S. visa to visit him, and each time Washington has denied her request.

Olga Salanueva, wife of René González, has applied for a visa seven times with the same results. Their daughter, Ivette González, has not seen her father since the year 2000.

Salanueva and other relatives of the five have traveled around the world speaking out against these abuses, and asking for support for the right of the five men to see their loved ones.

"You don't need to know anything about Cuba to start now. . . . Find out about what they were doing and you will join us, and I know you will get out there and fight for them," said Irma González, another daughter of René González, in an Oct. 15, 2006, television newscast during a visit to the Bahamas.

The campaign to demand freedom for the five includes efforts to get the word out about their case as broadly as possible through house meetings and forums, film showings, and other events on campuses and elsewhere.

To learn more about the campaign, including how to get movies and literature on the case, and how to get involved, contact *Militant* distributors near you (see directory on page 8); the Young Socialists at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018 or youngsocialists@mac.com or call (212) 629-6649; or the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five at *www.freethefive.org.*

World War II: Lessons in the fight for Black rights

Below are excerpts from Fighting Racism in World War II, *one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. This collection of articles, pamphlets, letters, and resolutions published by the* Militant *during the war illuminates the usually untold struggles waged against racist discrimination in the U.S. military and war production plants. These struggles laid the ground for the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s. The call for a march on Washington was announced on May 1, 1941. It was to occur July 1. March organizers, however, called it off after intense pressure from President Franklin Roosevelt's administration and the promise of an executive order ending discrimination in federal employment.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

A committee of prominent Negroes headed by A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, is now engaged in furthering a march on Washington, which is scheduled to take place July 1.

Ten thousand Negroes, it is planned, will join in the march, demanding an end to Jim Crowism and discrimination in the armed forces and industry.



Picket line against Jim Crow segregation in war industries, 1941. Members of the National Negro Congress from Washington and Baltimore picket the Office of Production Management in Washington to protest the government's support to the anti-Black job discrimination policy of the Glenn L. Martin aircraft plant in Baltimore.

Certainly, if ever there was a time for the Negro people to take action against Jim Crowism and discrimination, this is the hour. . . .

The old saying "last hired, first fired" applies as much as ever in the present expanding industrial picture. Most of the comparatively few jobs which Negroes are getting are the lower-paid occupations abandoned by workers getting employment in the strategic industries. Those jobs Negroes do get in the big industries are limited to the menial categories. The heads of big corporations controlling airplane and similar production have openly stated they refuse to hire Negroes except as janitors and similar categories. . . .

As a result of profiteering and curtailed production of consumers' goods, food, shelter, and clothing cost more. The increased taxes to raise more money for the war machine hit the Negroes; before long these taxes will include sales taxes on everything workers use and income taxes on practically everyone working. All this is a heavy burden for the workers lucky enough to have halfway decent jobs. For the Negro people it is truly crushing.

Relief and WPA [Works Progress Administration] appropriations are being slashed. . . . Since Negroes were the group that suffered the most in the depression, and since they find it hardest to get jobs today, these reductions in relief and WPA hit them the hardest.

In addition to being denied work, Negroes are being denied the right to learn how to work at skilled and semiskilled jobs. The usual argument of the officials in charge of the training schools is that there is no use in "wasting the training" when Negroes won't be able to get jobs afterward to utilize the training. To complete this picture, it should be remembered that one of the many alibis of employers who are put on the spot is that they can't find Negroes "qualified to handle skilled work."

They won't take the Negro into the factories, but they take him into the armed forces. But not as an equal. He can die for democracy but he can't have it in life.

In the army, Negroes are separated off in segregated regiments. Roosevelt has said that it is in the interests of "national defense" that the Negro should be segregated this way; apparently he feels that a Jim Crow army can best carry on the kind of war for democracy that he wants.

Segregated regiments mean separate eating quarters, separate sleeping quarters, separate seats at the theaters; no Negro officer in command of white soldiers, practically no Negro officers in command of even Negro troops.

In the navy, the Negro is segregated too—into the kitchen. He can serve only as a mess attendant or cook or flunky. . . .

And if he objects, if he even writes a letter to the Negro press protesting the Jim Crow treatment he receives, as fifteen sailors on the U.S.S. *Philadelphia* did a few months ago, then he is thrown into the brig and faces court-martial and discharge "for the good of the service."

Alabama meeting

Continued from page 6

revolution offers an example to working-class militants of "how to fight and how to win."

"Our History Is Still Being Written provides a context to understand the amazing changes for Chinese in Cuba after 1959," said Edward Tang, a professor of American Studies at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, referring to the measures in Cuba that uprooted racist discrimination. He contrasted those advances with the discrimination faced by Asian immigrants in the United States, despite efforts by the U.S. government to portray Asian Americans as a supposedly well-off "model minority."

During the discussion period, Odessa Woolfolk, president emeritus of the Civil Rights Institute, told of her experiences visiting Cuba with other students from Talladega College in the waning years of the Batista regime. "You could see the extreme social divisions in Cuba, like we faced in the United States," she said, noting that she came to the meeting to learn about how those conditions had changed with the revolution.

Afterward, 35 people adjourned to a nearby home of two participants in the event for a delicious dinner and hours more of discussion.

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EDITORIAL

Campaign to free the Cuban Five

Join the campaign to win freedom for the Cuban Five! Help spread the word about who these five revolutionaries are, and how they were framed up by Washington.

Gerardo Hernández, René González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González have been locked up in U.S. federal penitentiaries for more than eight years. They have been kept in solitary confinement on two occasions, had correspondence and literature not delivered to them, and been denied regular visits and normal telephone contact with others. Two of the five have been prevented from seeing their loved ones, as Washington has repeatedly denied visas to their wives and children.

The Young Socialists have been among those in the United States campaigning for improved conditions for the Five and for their release. From organizing campus meetings to spreading the word on the case at other political activities, YSers and others have shown the potential to win a broader hearing for the campaign. Workers, youth, and others familiar with the brutality of capitalist "justice" can be won to demanding improved prison conditions, including allowing their relatives to visit them, and freedom for the five.

The Cuban Five are products of the Cuban Revolution. Their real crime is defending that socialist revolution and their country's sovereignty. Their selflessness comes from what working people in Cuba accomplished: overthrowing capitalism and, along with it, its dog-eat-dog morality. Being consistent revolutionaries—from their internationalist missions in Africa years before their frame-up to their recent efforts from behind prison walls to extend solidarity to embattled workers in the United States—is the norm in a society where working people have political power and have set out to build a world based on human solidarity.

Explaining who the five are, and why Washington has gone after them with such ire, can lead to an understanding of how working people in Cuba transformed society. Through the campaign for their release, many partisans of the case will be attracted to learning the truth about the Cuban Revolution and become active in its defense. And among them, many can be won to join a revolutionary movement in the United States and other countries seeking to emulate the example Cuba's workers and peasants set in 1959.

The campaign to win freedom for the five doesn't end with the April 29–30 international youth conference in Havana. That event will allow young people from around the world involved in this effort to exchange experiences and prepare for the next stage of the struggle. Film showings, house meetings, campus and other events, and broad distribution of literature on the case needs to continue well after the culmination of the international youth campaign at the end of this month.

Let's spread the efforts to demand: Let their loved ones visit the five men in prison! Free the Cuban 5!

Senate: $98 billion for Iraq, Afghanistan wars

Continued from front page

told the Associated Press. "I think that nobody wants to play chicken with our troops on the ground."

The Senate bill mirrors a similar measure the House passed March 23. It provides $100 billion for the wars, about $7 billion above the White House request. Each of the bills included more than $20 billion in domestic spending for Gulf Coast hurricane relief, aid to spinach and cattle growers, and facilities for peanut storage, in a failed attempt to win Republican votes.

The House version sets a deadline of Sept. 1, 2008, to complete a phased redeployment of U.S. troops from combat operations in Iraq. The Senate bill sets a non-binding deadline of March 31, 2008, for such a " pullout." In both versions an unspecified number of troops would remain in Iraq to equip and train Iraqi security forces and conduct target operations against al-Qaeda.

Under the circumstances, even a number of liberals have assailed the description of these bills as "antiwar." A column by Alexander Cockburn in the April 16 issue of the *Nation* magazine, headlined "That Was an Antiwar Vote?" said, "On Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi's website we find her portrait of what U.S. troops will be doing in Iraq following this withdrawal, or 'redeployment,' should it occur late next year on the bill's schedule. 'U.S. troops remaining in Iraq may only be used for diplomatic protection, counterterrorism operations and training of Iraqi Security Forces.' But does this not bear an eerie resemblance to Bush's presurge war plan? Will the troops being redeployed out of Iraq even come home? No, says Pelosi, as does Senate majority leader Harry Reid. These troops will go to Afghanistan to battle Al Qaeda.

"So the bill essentially adopts and enforces Bush's war plan and attendant 'benchmarks' as spelled out in his January 10 speech," when the U.S. president announced the biggest escalation of the war in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of the country.

LETTERS

Thank you

Thank you. I enjoy your clearly written articles and unwavering support for peace through socialism. You give me much hope and offer ideas that work, even if they may not be the most popular.

Stanley Kasun
Schuyler, Nebraska

Busing

Enclosed is a check for the Prisoners Fund. I look forward to the letters from prisoners. So thoughtful and strong.

I have a problem with the spelling of the word "bused" in the paper. In the article about Gary Tyler in the March 19 issue, the word bused is spelled with two ss's. I know it seems like a little objection. But in the struggle to desegregate the Boston schools in the early 1970s, those who were violently opposed to busing used two ss's in the word and it drew a line in the sand between them and those of us who fought for and supported those in the Black community to desegregate the schools by busing.

Mary Lipman
Santa Cruz, California

Correction

The lead headline and article in last week's *Militant*, "House: $124 billion for Iraq, Afghanistan wars; $31 billion more than Bush requested," was inaccurate. The House bill allocated about $100 billion for these wars—some $7 billion over Bush's request—and more than $20 billion for non-military domestic spending.

Communist Party USA

In a recent issue a letter from the editor described the Communist Party USA as middle class radicals.

It would be more accurate to point out that the CPUSA promotes Democrats, members of the other capitalist party of war and racism, and is a bourgeois reformist group that would have us believe that workers can make great strides toward real liberation under capitalism.

Nick Brisini
Hastings, Pennsylvania

Community control of police?

The article "'Convict all five cops who killed Sean Bell,' say protesters after 3 N.Y. cops indicted," in the April 2 issue refers to the demand for community control of the police. This is preceded by the sentence, "But many working people in this city are expressing a different opinion." One might get the notion that the demand of community control of the police would be a solution to police brutality. Would not the police be anti-worker and the protector of the billionaires as long as the system is run for the ruling rich?

Rick Young
Chicago, Illinois

Yes. The editorial in that issue expressed precisely the same opinion as the letter from the reader above.—Editor

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

15 Britons released

Continued from front page

if the British troops were not released. Bush said March 31 he "strongly" supported London. The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution expressing "grave concern at the capture" of the 15.

An Iranian diplomat kidnapped February 4 in Baghdad was released yesterday. According to the Associated Press, "The Iraqi government is intensively seeking the release of five Iranians detained by U.S. forces in Iraq in January. . . . Securing the Iranians' release will help to get the detained Britons freed."

Botched U.S. kidnapping attempt

The *Independent* published an article yesterday pointing to what may have triggered the crisis. "A failed American attempt to abduct two senior Iranian security officers on an official visit to northern Iraq was the starting pistol for a crisis that 10 weeks later led to Iranians seizing 15 British sailors and Marines," it said.

It reported that the operation took place January 11—shortly after Bush's speech announcing the U.S. escalation of its war in Iraq—in Erbil, in Iraqi Kurdistan. Helicopter-borne U.S. forces conducted a surprise raid on a long-established Iranian liaison office there, capturing five junior Iranian officials who Washington then accused of being spies. U.S. authorities are still holding them.

According to the *Independent,* the U.S. raid's real aim, which was botched, was to arrest Mohammed Jafari, deputy head of the Iranian National Security Council, and Gen. Minojahar Frouzanda, chief of intelligence of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. The two were in Kurdistan on an official visit during which they met Iraqi president Jalal Talabani and Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

"The objective of the Americans was to arrest Iranian security officials who had gone to Iraq to develop cooperation in the area of bilateral security," Iranian foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki told the Iranian News Agency at the time.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that protests have taken place in Iran against London. Some 60,000 soccer fans reportedly chanted "Death to England!" at a March 30 football game in Tehran.

British capitalist parties back Blair

As leaders of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat, and Scottish National parties—the main British opposition parties to the governing Labour Party—expressed their backing for the government, a discussion unfolded among capitalist politicians and in the media over what to do.

Conservative Party shadow foreign secretary William Hague called for "quiet diplomacy."

A March 27 editorial in the *Financial Times* argued that the "plight of the British naval personnel is unlikely to lead directly to conflict. But it is part of a pattern of escalating tensions that looks dangerous. . . . It is up to Iran, above all, to take a step back and calm the situation."

An editorial in the March 31 *Daily Telegraph* called for sanctions, seizing of Iranian assets, and launching "tactical strikes at Iranian military installations." There are thousands of British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, the paper pointed out.

The British fleet's 'battlefield'

London also has a sizeable naval presence, having doubled its commitment in the Arab-Persian Gulf recently, according to Royal Navy Commodore Keith Winstanley. The British fleet operates as part of the U.S.-led coalition maritime command, whose 45 vessels from 19 countries engage in what are called "routine patrols" against "smuggling." The British Ministry of Defence says its forces and allied troops in the northern Gulf forcibly boarded ships 66 times in March.

In an interview before the sailors and marines were captured, Winstanley, who functions as deputy commander of the imperialist naval operations in the area, said, "There is no doubt that we could use the war-fighting capabilities" of the British fleet. The British navy refers to the area from the southern coast of Pakistan to the east coast of Africa as "battle-space."

Others, however, cautioned against any military attack. "Military action is unfeasible without American support" wrote the *Daily Telegraph*'s defense correspondent, Thomas Harding, "and so is a military blockade of the Gulf."